

Message Text

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082375

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 2225 ACTION STATE INFO BONN, BRUSSELS
22 APRIL 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A P AMMAN 2225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JO, EAID, ETRD

SUBJECT: JORDAN-EEC RELATIONS

1. A THREE MAN EEC DELEGATION LED BY CLAUDE CHEYSSON RECENTLY VISITED JORDAN TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC RELATIONS. GROUP MET WITH MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION (REFUGEE AFFAIRS), PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS COMMON MARKET CONTRIBUTIONS, PRIMARILY WHEAT AND FLOUR, THAT ASSIST THE GOJ IN FEEDING DISPLACED PERSONS IN JORDAN. DPS ARE REFUGEES FORM THE 1967 WAR, NOT PREVIOUSLY REFUGEES, WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR UNRWA RATIONS. UNDERSECRETARY IN SUPPLY MINISTRY INDICATED EEC DELEGATION PROMISED CONTRIBUTION OF 8,000 TONS OF WHEAT/FLOUR FOR 1975. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO 8,000 TONS ALREADY COMMITTED FOR DELIVERY THIS YEAR.

2. THE VISIT IS ALSO PART OF THE ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING JORDAN'S INTEREST IN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMON MARKET. CONTACTS HAVE SO FAR BEEN THROUGH JORDAN'S AMBASSADOR IN BONN AND HEAD OF EEC DELEGATION, MR. CHEYSSON, NOTED IN PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THEIR TALKS WOULD
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CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO CHEYSSON, COMMON MARKET WILL

OFFER JORDAN PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS ON CERTAIN GOODS, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND LOANS WITH ATTRACTIVE TERMS.

3. HEAD OF ECONOMIC SECTION OF GOJ FONMIN, DR. TAYSEER JABER, OPTIMISTIC THAT AGREEMENT WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONCLUDED, NOTING THAT GOJ COULD PROBABLY AVOID GRANTING RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS FOR EEC EXPORTS. HE OBSERVED THAT GOJ CONSIDERS EEC PARTICIPATION IN JORDANIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SUCH AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, LOANS AND DIRECT INVESTMENT, AS IMPORTANT AS TRADE CONCESSIONS.

4. IN THIS REGARD, FRENCH AMBASSADOR (PROTECL) NOTED THAT GROUP PLANNED TO DISCUSS TRADE MATTERS ONLY. HOWEVER, CROWN PRINCE CONFINED THIS PRESENTATION TO AN EXPLANATION OF WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT TO OBTAIN COMMON MARKET ASSISTANCE TO SETTLE REFUGEES IN JORDAN. CHEYSSON WAS SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY CP'S FRANK APPROACH AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR THOUGHT COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES WOULD BE PUT OFF BY POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF CP'S "ECONOMIC" SOLUTION TO JORDAN'S REFUGEE PROBLEMS. EEC APPARENTLY QUITE UNWILLING TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PROJECT FOR REFUGEE SETTLEMENT UNTIL THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND THE REFUGEES IS DECIDED EVEN THOUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HERE ARE GENERALLY AGREED CP'S IDEAS ARE SENSIBLE.
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